

As we prepare to head into the unofficial beginning of summer this Memorial Day Weekend, I wanted to take this space to hype up some of the great things we have going on in Troy, and urge people to make the best of them while the weather is nice during the next couple of months.

My basis for the column this week was the annual release of the *Times Union's* Best of the Capital Region edition last Thursday. And yes, I know Metroland had the idea first.

But, back to the matter at hand. The City of Troy was all over the "best of" list and I must say I agree wholeheartedly with all of its selections.

The biggest winner in the City had to be the guys over at the Troy Brew Pub, now Brown's Brewing, who took first place in four separate categories on the list, more than anyone else in the area. Among the wins they had were, Best Beer, Best Club for Live Music (Revolution Hall), Best Club for Hanging Out (Revolution Hall), and Best Development on the Local Arts Scene (Revolution Hall). That is great news for Garrett Brown and everyone at the bar, restaurant, and club. Everyone there works very hard, and we're happy to have them in the Collar City.

A little further south on River Street, we received several mentions for the antiques district, including Bournebrooke Antiques Center, which won for being the Best Source for 50's Modern Furniture, as well as John Hansen at Dusk Antiques and Decorations, who won for Best Antiques.

Continuing along with this theme, I think people need to start making a case for River Street being one of the best places in the area. Also winning along this street was the outstanding Troy Waterfront Farmers Market, obviously for Best Farmers Market, the Ale House, for having the Best Chicken Wings, and Bella Napoli for Best Bakery.

Wow, what a great street it is when you stop and think about it.

We also had many more winners I would like to share with everyone. Congratulations goes out to Snowman, for Best Ice Cream, I Love New York Pizza, for Best Pizza, Gino's Pizzeria, 3rd Place Pizza, Vanilla Bean, for second best bakery and the Most Sinful Dessert, the Troy Pork Store, for 3rd place in Best Butcher Shop, as well as the Tri-City ValleyCats, the Junior Museum, the Fulton Street Gallery, and Daisy Bakers, all of whom won for one thing or another.

Yes indeed, there is a lot going on in Troy.

Unfortunately, yours truly did not rank on the best politician list. Three guys named Bruno, Pataki, and Jennings, whoever they are. All well, there's always next year.

That said, make sure you get out and frequent all of the above places, as well as everyone else doing great business in Troy.

I will be on vacation next week, so there will not be a column. I do believe however, you will all get along just fine. And while I will be away, the City will continue to run like a well-oiled machine. As usual, don't ever forget that if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or complaints, you can call me at 270-4401, or e-mail me at the Mayors Office.